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# FACT SHEET

OMC/WAUKEGAN HARBOR UPDATE

FEBRUARY, 1991

This is one in a series of project updates for the Outboard Marine Corporation(OMC)/Waukegan Harbor superfund project. In November, 1990, site work began by preparing the area for new slip construction to facilitate the relocation of the Larsen Marine Company. This action, originally scheduled to begin in 1989, is one of the provisions of the 1988 consent decree among OMC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). This fact sheet explains why slip construction was delayed, what activities are currently scheduled and what will be happening in the near future.

**Q. Why has slip construction taken so long to begin?**

A. While designing the new slip, soil contamination not related to the OMC/Waukegan Harbor project was discovered, making the original location less desirable. U.S. EPA and OMC decided to move the slip slightly north of the original location. Upon learning about this additional contamination, U.S. EPA provided previous landowners the opportunity to investigate the problem and propose a solution. This new area is called the Waukegan Harbor Manufactured Gas and Coke Plant site, and is bordered on the west by Waukegan Harbor, the north and east by Sea Horse Drive and the south by OMC's Engineering Division. The new slip lies in a small portion of the northwest corner of this site.

**Q. What will happen in this new area?**

A. The new contaminated area will be treated as a superfund site but separate from the OMC/Harbor project. An investigation will be conducted to uncover the full extent and nature of the contamination followed by a study to determine the best way to cleanup the area. The study will be publicly discussed and public comments taken on any proposed cleanup plans. Under an agreement with the U.S. EPA, the North Shore Gas Company will do this work, with joint supervision from the U.S. and Illinois EPA's. Contaminants found were coal tar derivatives, creosote and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) which resulted from the previous operations of a coking plant, a manufactured gas plant and a railroad tie processing plant.

**Q. Where will the new slip be constructed and what is happening now?**

A. The new slip has been moved slightly north of the location originally outlined in the 1988 consent decree. It was designed to minimize the excavation of contaminated materials from the new site, yet still provide sufficient operating space for Larsen Marine. A portion of the sand dune has already been moved in preparation for slip construction. Also, contaminated materials surrounding the new slip will be excavated and stored onsite in a secure wastepile designed to meet U.S. EPA standards. Final disposal of these

materials will be addressed as part of the new superfund study. Provided construction can continue through the winter, excavation of the new slip should start mid-February and be completed in time for this year's boating season.

**Q. What is the project's current schedule?**

A. During and after completion of the new slip, OMC is required to relocate portions of Larsen Marine and to begin Slip 3 containment cell construction. These activities should not interfere with the boating season. The current schedule shows that harbor dredging will not start until November, 1991. Actual start dates are contingent upon U.S. EPA approval of OMC's design plans and documents. Once the design plans are approved, if requested, U.S. EPA will conduct a public meeting to discuss the project's final design.

**Q. Who is doing the work and supervising this project?**

A. The Waukegan Harbor Site Trustee has hired Canonie Environmental Services Corp. to provide engineering design and construction services. U.S. EPA has review and approval authority for all aspects of the OMC/Waukegan Harbor project while IEPA provides joint review and concurrence for the state. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides the technical review of design plans and specifications as well as continuous on-site oversight for U.S. EPA and IEPA during construction.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information on either the OMC/Waukegan Harbor project or the Waukegan Manufactured Gas and Coke Plant site, please contact:

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To be placed on the site mailing list for these projects, please fill out and mail this form to John Perrecone at the above address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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